What is claim is:

1. A modular gauge assembly for holding a plurality of modular block assemblies with gauge elements being selectively mountable in a plurality of spaced recesses of a tufting machine gauge bar, the modular block assembly comprising:

(a) a modular block having a front surface, a pair of side surfaces opposed to each other, a rear surface opposite to the front surface, a top surface and a bottom surface;

(b) a detent extending from a surface of the modular block interfitting with a recess in the gauge bar;

(c) a plurality of vertical parallel slots horizontally spaced between the opposing side surfaces of the modular block for receiving gauge elements;

(d) at least one opening extending horizontally between the opposing side surfaces of the modular block; and

(e) a securing pin for slidably engaging said at least one opening.

2. The modular gauge assembly of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of gauge elements having a distal end and a proximal end with an opening therein, the proximal ends of said gauge elements being received in the vertical parallel slots of the modular block and the securing pin passing through the openings in the proximal ends of the plurality of gauge elements.

3. The modular gauge assembly of claim 2 wherein the detent comprises a vertically disposed elongated tab separated by a channel into an upper portion and a lower portion.

4. The modular gauge assembly of claim 1 wherein the detent extends from the rear surface.

5. The modular gauge assembly of claim 1 wherein the detent extends approximately from the center of the bottom surface.

6. The modular gauge assembly of claim 5 wherein the modular block has a first forward plurality of spaced vertical slots separated by vertical walls with openings therein and a second rearward plurality of spaced vertical slots separated by vertical walls with openings therein.

7. The modular gauge assembly of claim 6 wherein the modular block has a first opening extending between the opposing side surfaces of the modular block and passing through the openings in the vertical walls separating the forward plurality of spaced vertical slots and a second opening extending between the opposing side surfaces of the modular block and passing through the openings in the vertical walls separating the rearward plurality of spaced vertical slots.

8. The modular gauge assembly of claim 1 wherein a fastener is used to pass through the detent and secure the modular block assembly to the gauge bar.

9. The modular gauge assembly of claim 1 wherein the gauge elements comprise loopers.

10. The modular gauge assembly of claim 7 further comprising a plurality of gauge elements having a distal end and a proximal end with an opening therein, the proximal ends of said

gauge elements being received in the vertical parallel slots of the modular block and the securing pin passing through the openings in the proximal ends of the plurality of gauge elements.

11. The modular gauge assembly of claim 1 wherein said gauge elements are disposed in a plane normal to the length of the securing pin.

12. In a tufting machine a modular gauge assembly comprising:

(a) an elongated gauge bar with a straight side extending along at least a portion of the length of the gauge bar, the straight side portion of the gauge bar having a plurality of spaced recesses defined therein;

(b) a plurality of modular blocks for engaging the straight side of the guide bar, each modular block having a detent which aligns with a recess in the gauge bar and having:

(i) a rear surface;

(ii) spaced parallel tufting machine gauge elements protruding from the modular block, each gauge element having a proximal end and a spaced distal end, the proximal ends of the gauge elements having an opening for fixing a plurality of the gauge elements to the block with a single securing pin;

(iii) a hole in the detent; and

(iv) a fastener utilizing the hole in the detent for removably securing each of the modular blocks to the gauge bar.

13. The modular gauge assembly of claim 12 wherein the detent of each mounting block comprises a raised member defined

on the rear surface of the modular block, said raised member being interfitting with the spaced recesses in the gauge bar.

14. The modular gauge assembly of claim 13 wherein the raised member is split to accommodate restraining surfaces.

15. A process of producing a tufting machine, the tufting machine having a tufting zone therein, said process comprising the steps of:

(a) forming a plurality of spaced, parallel, straight recesses across one side portion of an elongated gauge bar of the tufting machine;

(b) installing the gauge bar transversely of the tufting machine in the tufting zone;

(c) producing a plurality of modular blocks where each block has opposed parallel side surfaces a bottom surface, a rear surface, and a detent;

(d) forming on the rear surface of each modular block, an elongated tab having approximately the width of one of the recesses on the gauge bar, said tab having a hole therein;

(e) removably attaching gauge elements by their proximal end portions in each of the modular blocks, in parallel relationship to said side surfaces so that distal end portions of the gauge elements protrude from the modular blocks; and

(f) adjacently securing the modular blocks on the side portion of the gauge bar by interfitting the tab of each modular block in a recess on the gauge bar and using a fastener associated with the hole on the tab of each modular block.

16. The process of claim 15 including the step of removing a selected modular block having a damaged gauge element and replacing said block with a modular block having only undamaged gauge elements.

17. The process of claim 16 wherein a damaged gauge element is removed from the selected modular block, and replaced with a new gauge element.

18. The process of claim 15 wherein the step of securing the modular blocks to the gauge bar includes the step of resting the bottom portion of the modular block on the guide bar inserting the detent of the modular block in a recess of the gauge bar and passing a fastener through an opening in the detent into a receiving hole in the recess on the gauge bar.

19. In a tufting machine a modular gauge assembly comprising:

(a) an elongated gauge bar with a straight side extending along at least a portion of the length of the gauge bar, the straight side portion of the gauge bar having, a plurality of spaced recesses defined therein, and an opening defined within the recessed portion of the gauge bar;

(b) a plurality of modular blocks for engaging the straight side of the guide bar, each modular block having a detent which aligns with a recess in the gauge bar and having:

(i) a rear surface;

(ii) spaced parallel tufting machine gauge elements protruding from the modular block, the modular block

having a row of gauge element openings for receiving the gauge elements in the block;

(iii) screw pin openings corresponding to each gauge element, each of the openings capable of receiving a screw-pin to secure the gauge element to the block;

(iv) a receiving hole on the detent of the receiving block;

(c) a fastener passing through the opening on the gauge bar into the receiving hole on the corresponding modular block for removably securing the modular blocks to the gauge bar.

20. The modular gauge assembly of claim 21 wherein the detent of each mounting block comprises a raised member defined on the rear surface of the modular block, said raised member being sized and shaped to be received within one of the spaced recesses in the gauge bar.

21. A modular block assembly for use in a tufting machine comprising:

(a) a modular block having a front surface, a pair of opposed side surfaces, a rear surface, a top surface and a bottom surface;

(b) a detent extending from a surface of the modular block and having an opening therein;

(c) a plurality of vertical parallel slots separated by vertical walls having openings therein, and spaced between the opposing side surfaces of the modular block;

(d) a plurality of gauge elements having a distal end and a proximal end with an opening therein, the proximal ends of said gauge elements being received in the vertical parallel slots of the modular block;

(e) an opening extending laterally between the opposing side surfaces of the modular block;

(f) a securing pin extending through the lateral opening in the opposing sided surfaces, the opening in the proximal ends of the gauge elements, and the openings in the vertical walls.